



## **Administrative Office of the Courts**

### **Court Interpreter Credentialing Scholarships F & Q**

#### **1. Are there any qualification requirements for a scholarship?**

Yes, all potential interpreters must meet the requirements of Supreme Court Rule 42. A potential interpreter:

- a. Must be a United States citizen or if you are not a United States citizen but you are legally permitted to work in the United States, you must provide a copy of an official document which verifies your status;
- b. AND you cannot have a conviction for any felony or for a misdemeanor involving dishonesty or false statement. The conviction shall disqualify a candidate from certification if such conviction is ten years old or less.

#### **2. If I want to apply for a scholarship, do I just fill out the application form?**

All applications must include a copy of the Oral Proficiency Interviews (OPI) that you have taken in English and in the target language. You must receive the highest rating in each interview. The list of approved providers for the oral proficiency interview and how you can register for the OPI's can be found on the AOC web page at:

<http://www.tsc.state.tn.us/geninfo/Programs/Interpreters/Interpreters.htm>

PLEASE follow all directions for registering for the OPI's and notifying the AOC of the date and time for the interviews. The interviews can only be taken in specific locations in Chattanooga, Jackson, Knoxville and Nashville one time per month pursuant to the dates on the Testing Schedule on the AOC website.

You must pay for the interviews and if you achieve the highest rating and are approved for the scholarship, you will be reimbursed the costs of the at least one set of oral proficiency interviews.

If you have questions about scheduling interviews, please contact Mary Rose Zingale, Court Services Director, at 615-741-2687,

- 3. Can I take the workshop first and then take the OPI's? If so, will I be reimbursed the costs of the workshop and the OPI's if I obtain the required rating on the OPI?**

Yes – if you have taken the workshop after September 1, 2009 and then take your OPI's and obtain the highest rating, you can apply for a scholarship and will be considered for a scholarship to reimburse you for the costs of the workshop and the OPI's.

- 4. What will the scholarships pay for?**

The scholarships will reimburse you for all or part of the costs of the credentialing process including the costs of the workshop, OPI's, criminal background checks and oral exams (a maximum of 6 oral exams).

- 5. Can I apply for a scholarship if I already am a registered interpreter and have to take the three part oral exams to become a certified interpreter?**

Not at this time. The AOC obtained this grant in order to increase the number of individuals applying to start the credentialing process. The AOC will be reviewing sometime in 2010, the number of those taking advantage of the scholarship opportunity to determine if the process should be opened up to registered interpreters taking the oral exams to become certified.